

13th November 1922]

V

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

(1)

The SECRETARY laid on the table proceedings of the eighth, ninth and tenth meetings for 1922-23 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council held on the 14th September and the 26th and 30th October 1922, respectively.\*

(2)

The SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Survey and Settlement Retrenchment Committee.†

VI

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1922-23.

Grant I.

11-30 a.m. The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Mr. President, I beg to move

*That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 19,820 under '22. General Administration—District Administration—General Establishment' on account of the temporary staff sanctioned for reconstruction work in Malabar.*

"As the House is, I think, aware, the monetary assistance which the Government have been giving in Malabar in the form of relief for reconstruction work is largely by means of loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. For this purpose a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs has been set aside. The work to be done consists in paying visits to all portions of the rebellion area, inspecting the ruined houses and inquiring into the condition of the persons affected. This work was obviously beyond the powers of the ordinary staff and it has been found necessary to employ a small additional staff for the purpose. Up to the present that staff has dealt with loans amounting to 9 lakhs of rupees. The staff is very small, consisting of two Superintendents of the grade of Deputy Collectors, seven supervisors, two clerks and eleven peons, and the total expense, it will be observed, is something less than two per cent of the amount of money that the staff has to deal with. That, I think, is a very small charge for administration. At the time of the budget it was impossible to forecast the extent of these operations and, moreover, we expected that it would be possible to reappropriate from another head connected with the Malabar rebellion. But the Accountant-General has told us that that is impossible and that the charge must be debited to this particular grant. On that ground I ask the House to grant a sum of Rs. 19,820 under this head."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I have some information from the hon. Member with reference to this particular demand? The hon. Mr. Knapp said that loans were being granted to people in the area affected by the rebellion. I wish to know if it extends to the whole of Malabar area, including portions of Calicut, Ponani, and Wynad taluks, or if it is confined to Ernad and Walluvanad. Another piece of information

\* Vide Appendix VII at page 577 infra.

† Vide Appendix VIII at page 585 infra.